

Senate File 35 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 35

BY DANIELSON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the counting of absentee ballots and
2 including applicability provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 53.17, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
2 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. The sealed return envelope may be mailed to the
4 commissioner by the registered voter or by the voter's
5 designee. If mailed by the voter's designee, the envelope must
6 be mailed within seventy-two hours of retrieving it from the
7 voter or within time to be postmarked or, if applicable, to
8 have the ~~intelligent-mail~~ barcode or other means of tracking
9 traced to a date of entry into the federal mail system not
10 later than the day before the election, whichever is earlier.

11 Sec. 2. Section 53.17, subsection 2, Code 2019, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 2. In order for the ballot to be counted, the return
14 envelope must be received in the commissioner's office before
15 the polls close on election day or be clearly postmarked by an
16 officially authorized postal service or bear ~~an intelligent~~
17 ~~mail~~ a barcode or other means of tracking traceable to a date
18 of entry into the federal mail system not later than the day
19 before the election and received by the commissioner not later
20 than noon on the Monday following the election.

21 Sec. 3. Section 53.17, subsection 4, paragraph f, Code 2019,
22 is amended to read as follows:

23 f. A statement that the completed absentee ballot will
24 be delivered to the commissioner's office within seventy-two
25 hours of retrieving it from the voter or before the closing of
26 the polls on election day, whichever is earlier, or that the
27 completed absentee ballot will be mailed to the commissioner
28 within seventy-two hours of retrieving it from the voter or
29 within time to be postmarked or, if applicable, to have the
30 ~~intelligent-mail~~ barcode or other means of tracking traced to a
31 date of entry into the federal mail system not later than the
32 day before the election, whichever is earlier.

33 Sec. 4. Section 53.22, subsection 6, paragraph b, Code 2019,
34 is amended to read as follows:

35 b. Absentee ballots voted under **this subsection** shall be

1 delivered to the commissioner no later than the time the polls
2 are closed on election day. If the ballot is returned by mail
3 the return envelope must be received by the time the polls
4 close, or be clearly postmarked by an officially authorized
5 postal service or bear ~~an intelligent mail~~ a barcode or other
6 means of tracking traceable to a date of entry into the federal
7 mail system not later than the day before the election and
8 received by the commissioner no later than the time established
9 for the canvass by the board of supervisors for that election.

10 Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to all elections
11 taking place on or after July 1, 2019.

12 EXPLANATION

13 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
14 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

15 This bill relates to the counting of absentee ballots.
16 The bill requires county commissioners of elections to count
17 all mailed absentee ballots received by noon on the Monday
18 following election day that include a barcode or other means of
19 tracking that confirms that the ballot was mailed by the day
20 before election day. The bill applies to all elections taking
21 place on or after July 1, 2019.